

NEWS

From the Office of

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Mitzelfelt Announces Study of Trauma System Adequacy

VICTORVILLE – San Bernardino County Supervisor Brad Mitzelfelt today joined Victorville City Councilman Bob Hunter to announce the release of a request for proposals to study the adequacy of the county's trauma system. At Supervisor Mitzelfelt's request, the Inland Counties Emergency Medical Agency (ICEMA) has developed a plan to perform a countywide assessment of the County's existing trauma system.

"There are currently only two designated trauma hospitals in San Bernardino County, Arrowhead Regional Medical Center in Colton and Loma Linda University Medical Center," said Supervisor Mitzelfelt. "These are world-class facilities, however they are located on the southern border of our County and are separated from the rest of our County by mountains, deserts and great distances. There are no trauma centers in the High Desert, which is something that needs to change."

A request for proposals (RFP) has been developed and will be sent to identified experts in emergency medical services and trauma fields. The scope of work to be included within the RFP will include, but not be limited to, the following activities:

- Evaluation of current volume and projected volume, by geographic region,
- Evaluation of individual transport protocols and trauma triage practices,
- Evaluation of patient care capacity, including capacity specific to the hospital's medical/surgical intensive care unit, operating rooms, and emergency departments,
- Evaluation of medical and hospital staffing practices and needs, including recruitment, coverage and retention practices,
- Evaluation of financial viability, and
- On-site hospital visits

The selected consultant will be required to assess the potential cost and revenue implications of any additional trauma centers that are recommended, and if designated, how those designations would impact current designated trauma hospitals in the county.

"The plan to provide the High Desert with this much needed trauma center is about saving lives. We are committed to making the trauma center a reality," said Councilman Hunter.

"San Bernardino County, especially the High Desert region, has witnessed significant growth in housing, population and traffic," added Mitzelfelt. "This countywide assessment will show what the current needs are based on our existing trauma system and the expanding population. It will also show where changes should be implemented in order to best serve the needs of the public, which I suspect will support my goal of bringing a trauma center to the High Desert."

ICEMA anticipates that the cost of the study will not exceed \$100,000. ICEMA staff will return to the Board of Supervisors, which also governs ICEMA, for approval of any contract resulting from the RFP.